

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03
ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9492
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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AMCONSUL ADANA
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AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJECT: TWO NEW TURKISH MINISTERS APPOINTED

REF: ANKARA 7990 (DTG 311440Z OCT 77)

1. NOVEMBER 12 TURKISH PRESS REPORTED THE APPOINTMENT BY
PRIMIN DEMIREL, AND APPROVAL BY PRESIDENT KORUTURK, OF EKREM
CEYHUN AS MINISTER OF STATE AND ILHAMI ERTEM AS MINISTER OF
SOCIAL SECURITY, FILLING THE POSTS LEFT VACANT BY TWO MINISTERIAL
TRANSFERS OCTOBER 28.

2. CEYHUN, JUSTICE PARTY (JP) DEPUTY FROM ISTANBUL, WAS BORN
56 YEARS AGO IN EDIRNE AND HAS SPENT MOST OF HIS CAREER AS A
CIVIL SERVANT SINCE GRADUATING FROM THE ISTANBUL UNIVERSITY
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FACULTY OF CONSTRUCTION. AFTER HAVING WORKED IN THE GENERAL
DIRECTORATE OF HIGHWAYS, AND SERVING AS CONSULTANT AND OFFICE
DIRECTOR IN THE STATE PLANNING ORGANIZATION, IN 1973 HE WAS
APPOINTED UNDERSECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS.
LATER HE SERVED AS UNDERSECRETARY IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE
AND IN 1977 WAS ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

3. ERTEM, JP DEPUTY FROM EDIRNE, PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS MINISTER OF EDUCATION UNDER DEMIREL 1967-69 AND LATER AS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE 1969-71. BORN IN 1918, HE GRADUATED FROM THE FACULTY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND SERVED IN A SERIES OF PLACES (MOSTLY IN EASTERN TURKEY) AS DISTRICT GOVERNOR (KAYMAKAN) AND PROVINCE GOVERNOR. A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SINCE 1961, HE WAS ACTING JP ASSEMBLY GROUP LEADER AT THE TIME OF HIS NEW APPOINTMENT.

4. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE PUBLIC REACTION TO THE APPOINTMENTS AS YET, NOVEMBER 13 LIBERAL MILLIYET AND LEFTIST BARIS REPORTED THAT JP DISSIDENTS HAD REACTED NEGATIVELY, CHARGING THAT DEMIREL HAS AGAIN RESORTED TO APPOINTMENT MEN FROM THE SMALL COTERIE SURROUNDING HIM.

5. COMMENT: IT IS HARD TO SEE WHAT DEMIREL HAS GAINED POLITICALLY BY APPOINTING CEYHUN AND ERTEM. APPOINTMENT OF TWO MEN IN THEIR LATE FIFTIES SEEMS UNLIKELY TO PLEASE YOUNGER JP DEPUTIES, WHO REPORTEDLY ARE A MAJOR PART OF THE JP'S INTERNAL OPPOSITION. ANOTHER MAJOR SOURCE OF INTERNAL OPPOSITION, FORMER MEMBERS OF THE DEMOCRAT PARTY (DP), WOULD ALSO SEEM UNLIKELY TO BE MOLLIFIED BY THE APPOINTMENT OF MEN WITH NO DP CONNECTION. SPIERS

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